



MEETING SUMMARY
WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMISSION (WRAC)
Lower East Coast Water Supply Plan Update
South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD)
SFWMD Headquarters, 3301 Gun Club Road, B1 Auditorium
West Palm Beach, Florida
Monday, November 28, 2005

WRAC Members:

Jamie Furgang
Patrick Hayes

Barbara Miedema
Ken Todd

Attendees:

Danna Ackerman-White
Jeff An
Kara Baxter
Kristin Bennett
T Blumberg
Jim Brawner
Scott Brown
Sally Channon
Erin Deady
Rick Dent
Rebecca Elliott

Dora Florindo
Erin Fitzhugh
Donna Fries
Patrick Gleason
Lorraine Guise
Jennifer Jurado
Steve Lamb
David Lee
Omar Lopez
Maria Loucraft
Patrick Martin

*Linda McCarthy
*Erin McDevitt
*Wayne Miller
*Rick Olson
Michelle Percy
*Leisha Pica
*Irene Quincey
*Maria Valdes
*Cathy Vogel

Staff:

Scott Burns
Mark Elsner
Linda Hoppes
Pete Kwiatkowski

Jim Jackson
John Mulliken
Barbara Powell
Beth Ross

Keith Smith
Richard Smith

Bert Waters

**1. Welcome and Introductions by John Mulliken, Division Director,
Planning and Resource Evaluation.**

Meeting called to order by Mr. Mulliken at 9:40 a.m. Ms. Bague was unable to attend due to a business conflict.

2. Introduction by John Mulliken.

Mr. Mulliken provided introductory comments.

All attendees introduced themselves and stated their affiliation.

Mr. Mulliken reported on the past meeting and the Governing Board action regarding grants. The purpose of today's meeting is to go back and review details of funding for grants and a quick roll up of projects that have been reviewed, and will inform the group about where staff will go in the future.

3. Initial Alternative Water Supply Projects (Fiscal Year 2006) by John Mulliken.

Mr. Mulliken presented information on the selection process used for the alternative water supply in Senate Bill 444. Recommended projects were approved by the Governing Board in October 2005.

Funding was explained and there will be a total of \$30.7 million in District funds, \$30.0 million in State funds (Senate Bill 444), for a total of \$60.7 million for alternative water supply projects.

Information on the project types funded District-wide and for the Lower East Coast was provided. Samples of reclaimed water and reverse osmosis projects for the LEC were discussed. Aquifer storage and recovery sample projects were reviewed. The new AWS capacity for the Lower East Coast is 60 million gallons daily (mgd) in 2006 and 139 mgd when projects complete.

Question and Answer Session:

Q The maximum mgd for the LEC as it relates to the alternative water supply projects?

A About 11% of reuse is being used today and about 100 mgd for the other areas, but the LEC region is heavily dependent on the Biscayne Aquifer.

4. Status of Proposed Future Water Supply Projects (Fiscal Years 2007-2025), by Barbara Powell, LEC Project Manager, Water Supply

Ms. Powell presented information on the new key requirements due to Senate Bill 444.

Alternative Water Supply development is to meet future demands, avoid impacts to the natural systems, Everglades's minimum flows and levels; and CERP-Consumptive Use Permit consistency.

Ms. Powell reviewed the funding for the alternative water supply for FY 2007-2025.

To date, there have been 288 projects submitted and there are 86 projects for the LEC. Of the 86 projects, 80 are public water supply, 5 industrial (FPL), and 1 agricultural (generic). Information was provided on potential projects in the LEC for reclaimed water, brackish water, aquifer storage and recovery and storage/other.

More information will be provided as soon as possible.

Q Partnerships and the best way to handle – which is a better approach -- a “Stand Alone” or “Partnership”?

A Multi-jurisdiction project is favored. (SFWMD staff members Barbara Ross, John Mulliken and Mark Elsner all provided information.) A future WRAC workshop on funding will be scheduled.

Q Concern expressed on the funding for “joint projects”.

A Information on surplus funds that will be available from the Florida State Legislature for alternative programs. Recommendation for attendees to lobby the legislature for additional funding. (SFWMD staff member Scott Burns.)

Q Is the SFWMD looking at issues that can be improved?

A Problems have not been identified yet. Mr. Elsner gave information on problems with regional issues and alternatives that are being reviewed.

Q Concern about the timing of projects from regional water supply plans that are being pulled and is that being looked at by staff.

A Mr. Mulliken gave information on alternative features that are being researched. Jim Jackson reported on the requirements of local governmental entities. Mr. Mulliken continued with information on what will work for the specific agency and detailed levels in proposed plans. Mr. Jackson provided additional information on this issue. Ms. Powell provided information on the upcoming Florida Department of Community Affairs (DCA) workshops will be held on December 5 and 6 to discuss growth management legislative implementation.

Q Environmental issues?

A Mr. Elsner reported on minimum flows and levels, water resources impacts, legislation factors, etc.

Q Is this topic on the web page so everyone can keep up?

A Mr. Mulliken and Mr. Elsner reported on what would be posted on the web, including forms, information, approved plans, lists for Governing Board consideration, solicitation period. Mr. Jackson said all the handouts from today’s meeting will be posted on the web.

5. Break – Not taken.

6. Discussion of Additional Potential Projects by John Mulliken.

Mr. Mulliken presented information on the next steps which are to analyze potential projects; identify need for additional projects to meet projected 2025 demand; and work with utilities and other entities to develop additional projects. Timelines were discussed for submittal of projects. The best available information is needed.

There will be briefing to the full WRAC on January 5, 2006; and then a briefing to the Governing Board on January 11, 2006.

Q The form does not fit agricultural projects very well and can it be improved?
A Mr. Mulliken will meet with FDACS representative to provide assistance.
Q An explanation was requested for how to complete the form for specific projects.
A Staff will do everything they can to make the information required on the form flexible.
Q More specific?
A Yes, assistance will be provided.
Q Basins?
A Participation in the program will explained and resolving specific issues. They will work with agricultural interests.
Q One for Ag?
A General information given. Ms. Powell gave additional information on the differences and they will be addressed.
Q Specifics cannot be achieved.
A Ms. Powell provided information on the additional work that will be needed to assist agricultural projects.

7. Plan Schedule and Future Workshops by Barbara Powell.

Ms. Powell gave the schedule for the Lower East Coast Water Supply Plan. She said any questionnaires should be submitted. Mr. Jackson provided information on the DCA meetings.

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Recorded By – Paula Moree
Staff Business Operations Analyst – SFWMD